[*English*]

Improvement of Southern Naval Command, Cochin

5960. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal for the improvement of the Southern Naval Command at Cochin; and

(b) if so, the details thereof; and the steps taken in this regards?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR) : (a) and (b). The facilities at the Southern Naval Command are being developed commensurate with the requirements of the Navy. Further details cannot be divulged in the interest of the national security.

[*Translation*]

Employment on compassionate grounds at Air Force's Trishul Airport

5961. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons who have applied for employment on compassionate grounds in Trishul Airport of the Air Force;

(b) the number of persons who have been offered employment on these grounds during the last three years;

(c) the number of applicants who have sought employment on compassionate ground at present; and

(d) the time by which they are likely to be given employment there?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR) : (a). The IAF do not have any Air Base by this name.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[*English*]

Import of Caustic Soda

5962. SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the caustic soda flakes/solids/lye are being imported at present;

(b) if so, the quantity imported during each of the last three years and the total value thereof;

(c) the reasons for importing caustic soda when the indigenous manufacturers who are also exporting it are in a position to meet the demand; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (d). The item Caustic Soda appears in the Limited Permissible List of the Import Export Policy 1990-93. As such the item can imported only against either Special Licences issued to units in the SSI sector or those engaged in the manufacture of life saving drugs/equipments, or against Exim Scrips/Additional Exim Scrips/ Special Additional Exim Scrips. As per the data available, a statement showing the quantity and value of Caustic Soda imported during the period 1986-87 to 1988-89 is enclosed.